

**Merger of Bombay-Kolhapur and
Bombay-Belgaum Vayudoot flights.**

731. SHRI UDAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot flights between Bombay-Kolhapur, and Bombay-Belgaum have been merged into one;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of flights cancelled on both the routes during 1991 so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Vayudoot services to Belgaum and Kolhapur were merged together due to commercial reasons.

(c) and (d). 30 flights were cancelled on this route from January, 1991 to October, 1991. The cancellation were largely due to bad weather and engineering snags.

Treatment of T.B. Patients

732. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of TB cases in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether adequate quantities of medicines for the TB treatment are not available in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a number of TB patients

who have been treated are having recurrent TB, within a period of 2 to 3 years;

(f) if so, the number of such cases; and

(g) the remedial measures proposed to be taken for total eradication of TB in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Tuberculosis is neither a notifiable disease nor prevalence survey to assess exact size of the problem of Tuberculosis in the country is being conducted every year. However, there is no evidence to suggest that the incidence of TB cases is on the increase in the country during the last three years. The epidemiology of TB is such that with the rise of population the number of TB patients are becoming more.

(c) and (d). Adequate quantity of anti-TB drugs is supplied to the State run T.B. Centres for free treatment of diagnosed TB patients, according to the pattern of assistance laid down by the Planning Commission.

(e) and (f). No such information is available from the District T.B. Programme reports.

(g) To combat the problem of Tuberculosis in the country, a total of 378 equipped and staffed district T.B. Centres have been established to undertake T.B. case finding and treatment activities. In addition, there are about 330 T.B. clinics functioning in the country. About 47,000 T.B. beds are also available.

To reduce the duration of treatment from 12-18 months to 6-8 months, Short course Chemotherapy drug regimen containing more potent drugs is being introduced. So far, 253 districts have been cov-

ered under this regimen. As a preventive measure BCG vaccination is being to the children of the age group 0-1 years.

To educate the masses, about T.B. disease its prevention, stress is being given on health education through T.V. and Radio spots, advertisements in newspaper and booklets/pamphlets.

Excavation of Stones In Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

733. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned excavation of stones from forest land in Uttar Pradesh to check environment pollution;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in loss of revenue and thousands of people have been rendered jobless; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is some insignificant loss of revenue and employment opportunities to local people on account of ban on excavation of stone from forest areas. This loss is, however, more than compensated for as banning excavation of stone forest areas helps in protecting the forest from denudation and also checking environmental pollution.

(c) The Mines Department of Uttar

Pradesh sanctions leases for excavation of stones on Gram Samaj (Community Lands which generates revenue to the Government and employment to the local people.

Promotion of Tourism Through Festivals

[*English*]

734. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a list of festivals with a view to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these festivals;

(c) the facilities being provided by the Union Government to the respective State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the effect of this scheme to promote tourism so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A list of festivals prepared by the Department is given in the statement.

(c) Central financial assistance for promotion of festivals, is extended to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter se priorities.

(d) Promotion of such Indian fairs and festivals enhances the awareness of the country's cultural heritage and increases tourist arrivals to destinations where the festivals are held.